

MADONNA UNIVERSITY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Madonna University on its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1947 by the Felician Sisters of Livonia, Madonna University has grown from a student body of 9 to one of 4,000.

Throughout the years, Madonna has undergone many changes. In 1962, Madonna expanded its curriculum to include a 4-year degree program in nursing. In 1972, men were admitted for the first time to degree programs and Madonna's curriculum was expanded to include programs in criminal justice, radiologic technology, and fire protection and occupational safety.

In 1975, Madonna initiated a interpreting program for communication with deaf persons and the first deaf students were admitted to the college. In 1991, Madonna College was renamed Madonna University.

Madonna University is one of the gems in my congressional district. This institution of higher learning provides dedicated students with the opportunity to develop their skills and receive a first class education.

It is with great appreciation that I extend my congratulations to the board of trustees, President Sister Mary Francilene, the alumni, and the students of Madonna University.

THE GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, this Veterans Day, I would like to share with my colleagues a very poignant letter I received yesterday from my constituent, Dr. Peter Tarasoff of Randolph, NJ. Dr. Tarasoff returned earlier this year from his service as a U.S. Army Military Reserve physician in support of Operation Joint Endeavor in Europe, and recently retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

As someone who has the unique view of serving patients in our armed services and as a private physician, Dr. Tarasoff recognizes what we often forget—that 365 days a year, there are American men and women in harm's way around the world, in more than 100 countries, protecting our freedoms. Dr. Tarasoff writes:

Having now completed more than 20 years of service with the Army Medical Corps, I have retired and thankfully, returned to civilian life and my family. As our military forces continue to downsize and the responsibilities placed upon their shoulders increase, I hope the American public will continue to remember the tremendous job being done on all our behalves by the men and women of the uniformed services. I am concerned, however, that this might not be the case.

I hope that you and your colleagues in the Congress will take every opportunity, such as Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, to re-

mind all Americans of this. I still recall very clearly December 25, 1996, a bitterly cold day in Germany, when during formation, our unit commander remarked, "None of us will ever forget Christmas 1996. This is the year that we give to our country the gifts of our talent, service, and time in the name of freedom. Our families give even more through their willingness to support things at home and maintain us here with their love and devotion. Democracy is expensive and a few often pay the dues for many."

So, Mr. Speaker, this Veterans Day, I would ask my fellow Americans to stop and thank a veteran for paying the price of freedom, and think about our men and women serving overseas—they won't have the day off.

FREE LEYLA ZANA, KUDISH PARLIAMENTARIAN JAILED IN TURKEY

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to express my profound outrage at the treatment of an elected official in Turkey. Leyla Zana—a Kurdish parliamentarian, duly elected by the people of her district—has been arrested and jailed in Turkey for the crime of expressing her political opinions and beliefs. To be precise, Ms. Zana had the temerity to express her views at a meeting of the Commission on Security and Cooperation, here in Washington. Her prosecution is a crime against democracy and a crime against freedom. For nearly 3 weeks, a group of Kurds and Americans have been fasting in front of the Capitol in silent protest of Leyla Zana's incarceration. One of these individuals was forced to end his vigil yesterday because his health was threatened.

Last week, over 150 of my colleagues and I sent a letter to President Clinton asking him to demand Leyla Zana's freedom. I regret to say, however, that I do not have high hopes that our Government will take her case seriously. Our administration—like those before it—has maintained a policy of ignoring outrageous Turkish human rights abuses, and papering over the fault lines in Turkish democracy.

For the past week, many of my colleagues and I have taken to the floor to express our genuine outrage at the human rights abuses in China. The litany of human rights abuses that we heard about is, unfortunately, what we have come to expect from countries like China. What we should not expect or tolerate is for a country like Turkey—ostensibly a western, European, democratic country—to have the same type of human rights problems. Yet Leyla Zana's case demonstrates that freedom of expression, freedom of thought and political dissidence are nearly as dangerous in Turkey as they are in China today. Turkey is our close ally, a partner in NATO and the European theater. How can we criticize China, but expect so little from Turkey? This hypocrisy must end.

It is even more shameful that Turkey's harassment of the Kurdish people does not end at its own borders. In the past 3 weeks, Turkey has openly waged an indiscriminate attack on Kurdish villages in Northern Iraq. Turkey

has said that they are merely pursuing the PKK into Northern Iraq, but the facts bear out a different story. The use of napalm and cluster bombs against civilians in Northern Iraq is irrefutable evidence that Turkey does not care who it hurts in its mindless military effort to eradicate the Kurds. I am ashamed to say that our Government—the same government that marshaled the entire international community when these same Kurds were attacked by Saddam Hussein—has done nothing to criticize this lawless behavior on the part of our ally Turkey. Instead we have allowed Turkey to willfully disrupt our own efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between the Kurdish groups in Northern Iraq.

The United States has a moral responsibility to speak out against such behavior whether it comes from China or Turkey. I hope that my colleagues will join me in expressing their outrage at Turkey's outrageous actions at home and beyond its borders, and our own administration's "see no evil" policies.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today is the end of the line for those of us who support campaign finance reform. Today, it is expected that we will complete our legislative session, and will adjourn for the rest of the year. We will adjourn without having been given a vote on campaign finance reform. The leadership of this House has rejected the pleas of myself and many of my colleagues to bring a bill to the floor for a debate and vote.

It is obvious that the current system is broken and needs dramatic change. Too much money is being spent on campaigns. This has prohibited many qualified individuals from running for office, it has created disgust with the democratic process, and it has resulted in some of the lowest voter turnout in years. It is our responsibility as elected officials to change the current system.

There have been some promises that the House will consider a campaign finance reform bill in March of next year. It will be too late. Next year is an election year and even if we do pass legislation which will change the current system, which is still unlikely, it will be too late for the 1998 election cycle. That means a continued escalation of spending in campaigns, more soft money expenditures, more independent expenditures by special interest groups, and ultimately more public dissatisfaction with the process.

I have risen each day and made a statement calling for a vote on campaign finance reform. The leadership has failed to respond to my call. More importantly, they have failed to respond to the demands of the public for an end to the big money race.

I hope that when we return next year we will respond to the demands of the public and allow a vote on campaign finance reform. The people of my district demand that we take action.